

ADVICE

TO A

YOUNG DIVINE

CONCERNING

PREACHING.

By the most Reverend Dr. EDWARD
SYNGE, late Lord Archbishop of
TUAM, in *Ireland*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Thomas Trye* near *Grays-Inn-Gate*
in *Holborn*. MDCCLII.

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briefly be explained; that the Text may be well understood.

6. For the drawing of useful Matter from the Text, one Way is to deduce one or more Doctrinal Propositions from it: Each of which Propositions may (if there be Occasion) be a little explained, to guard against mistakes; and then proved from *Scripture* or *Reason*, or both.

7. Sometimes it may be proper from it to raise material Questions; the Answer to each of which must consist of one or more distinct Propositions; each Proposition to be a little explained (as Occasion shall be) and then proved from *Scripture* or *Reason*, or both.

8. Or sometimes it may be proper to divide the Text into its Parts; and from each part (almost as if it were a distinct Text) to raise and establish Doctrinal Propositions, to be explained and proved, as is before mentioned; but in a shorter Way.

9. From each Doctrine, thus explained and proved, proper Inferences are to be drawn, either for the confirming of some Point of Faith, or the enforcing of some Rule of Practice. Which Inferences may also be farther explained and proved, as there shall be Occasion.

10. Sometimes it may be best immediately

ately to subjoin each Inference to its respective Doctrine, from whence it is deduced; or sometimes to reserve them all for the Conclusion of your Discourse.

11. The best Conclusion of a Sermon is to leave a strong Impression of some particular Christian Duty upon the Minds of your hearers: To which it may sometimes be very useful to subjoin two or three Prudential Rules for the better putting it in practice.

12. I have given you my clearest thoughts of the Way of composing a Sermon: But be not strict in adhering to this or that particular Method. Always choose a proper subject; and whatever Method occurs to your thoughts, pursue it; provided it be clear. Method is certainly of great Use both to the Preacher and Hearers: But I have heard and read good Sermons that have not been strictly Methodical.

13. Before you sit down to write your Sermon, draw up a short Scheme of all the Heads of it in their proper Order. This will not take up much Time, and will make the Composition very much the easier.

14. The best Sermon will lose much of its Force, if it be not well delivered. Let your Delivery be very distinct, that not one Word may be lost. Some things require

quire a quicker Pronunciation than others: But nothing should be spoken languidly or negligently from the Pulpit. I can give you no better Rule than this: Speak as one who is in earnest, and desires that all he says may be both understood and believed: But take care to avoid every thing, in your Expressions, pronunciation, and Gesture, that any way looks like Affectation, or Singularity.

15. To make you an useful Preacher, take care to store up good Notions in your Mind, by studying the *Holy Scriptures* and Books of Morality and Practical Divinity. *These things command and teach.*—Give Attendance to Reading.—Neglect not the Gift that is in thee.—Meditate upon these Things; give thyself wholly to them.—Take heed to thyself, and to thy Doctrine; Continue in them: For in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee, 1 Tim. iv. 11. &c.

F I N I S.

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